

(iii) Mr A Baxter

To the Chair of the Communities & Place Committee

'How many winter maintenance vehicles have been out of service for more than a 24 hour period since the commencement of winter gritting operations on 14th October 2020 and what arrangements are in place to make sure that there is a continuity of service?'

The Council has a winter fleet of 131 vehicles sited across Highland. This is a mix of dedicated winter maintenance vehicles and multipurpose vehicles, used for roads maintenance in the summer and winter maintenance in the winter. There were 102 instances of vehicles being out of service for more than 24 hours.

When fleet are alerted to a vehicle downtime that may affect service delivery, the fleet management team are able to move assets around the Highlands to help minimise the impact of this.

Mechanics are on a standby rota from October to March to cover out of hours breakdowns and there is a winter maintenance overtime budget for working on at the end of the day if necessary.